CLAIMS

1. A composition, comprising:

a continuous aqueous phase comprising L-2-oxothiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid, at least one sequestering agent and at least one neutralizing agent, wherein the pH of the aqueous phase is 5 to 8.

2. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the sequestering agent is selected from the group consisting of EDTA, EDTA salts, disodium cocoamphodiacetate, diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid and salts thereof, the trisodium salt of nitrilotriacetic acid, ascorbic acid, trisodium citrate, etidronic acid and salts thereof, the heptasodium salt of diethylenetriamine pentamethylene phosphonic acid, the pentasodium salt of diethylenetriamine tetramethylene phosphonic acid, ethylenediamine tetramethylene phosphonic acid and salts thereof, sodium glucoheptanoate, and mixtures thereof.

3. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the sequestering agent is selected from the group consisting of the disodium and tetrasodium salts of EDTA, the dipotassium salt of EDTA, the pentasodium salt of diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid, the tetrasodium salt of etidronic acid, the pentasodium salt of ethylenediamine tetramethylene phosphonic acid, and mixtures thereof.

4. The composition of Claim 2, wherein the sequestering agent is an EDTA salt.

5. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the neutralizing agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonia, organic bases, basic amino acids, and mixtures thereof.

6. The composition of Claim 5, wherein the neutralizing agent is selected from the group consisting of monoethanolamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, aminomethyl-1,3-propanediol, N-methylglucamine, arginine, lysine, and mixtures thereof.

7. The composition of Claim 6, wherein neutralizing agent is triethanolamine.

8. The composition of Claim 1, further comprising at least one other active agent selected from the group consisting of vitamins, depigmenting agents, keratolytic agents and/or desquamating agents, calmants and screening agents.

9. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises at least one oil and the composition is in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion.

10. The composition of Claim 1, comprising:

0.01 to 10% by weight of L-2-oxothiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid,

0.01 to 1% by weight of the sequestering agent,

wherein the weight ratio of neutralizing agent to the L-2-oxothiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid is 0.7:1 to 1.3:1.

11. A method of preparing the composition of Claim 1, comprising combining water, L-2-oxothiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid, the sequestering agent and an amount of at least one neutralizing agent effective to adjust the pH of the continuous aqueous phase to 5 to 8.

12. A composition obtained by combining water, L-2-oxothiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid, at least one sequestering agent and an amount of at least one neutralizing agent effective to adjust the pH of the composition to 5 to 8.

13. A method of stabilizing L-2-oxothiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid in a composition containing a continuous aqueous phase, comprising incorporating into the composition at least one sequestering agent and at least one neutralizing agent, wherein the neutralizing agent being present in an amount which is sufficient to adjust the pH of the aqueous phase of the composition to a value of between 5 and 8.

14. A method of depigmenting or bleaching the skin, body hairs and/or head hair, comprising applying the composition of Claim 1 to the skin, body hairs and/or head hair.

15. A method of preventing hair loss and/or for stimulating regrowth of the hair, comprising applying the composition of Claim 1 to the hair.

16. A method of preventing or treating light-induced ageing and/or environment-related stress of the skin, comprising applying the composition of Claim 1 to the skin.

17. A method of preventing or treating greasy skin, comprising applying the composition of Claim 1 to the skin.